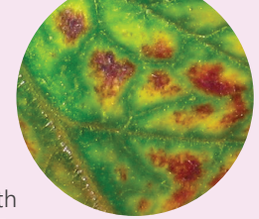
We all put in a lot of hard work when we plant our tomatoes but now is not the time to become complacent! The key to successful tomatoes (or any edible crop for that matter) is protection and prevention against disease and insects. I grow buckets of tomatoes every year and I swear by Wally's Secret Tomato Food with Neem Tree Granules. Used every 4–6 weeks it keeps my tomatoes pest free (which is what the neem is for) and also keeps the plants healthy; this should be used until six weeks before harvest.

Weather Or Fertiliser Related

Rolling of Older Leaves

Caused from fluctuating temperatures. Mulching helps control the soil temperature.



Magnesium Deficiency

Leaves are yellow between the veins. Feed plants with Yates Magnesium Chelate for fasting acting results or with Tui Tomato Fertiliser or Wally's Secret Tomato Food. If it still continues you may need to supplement feed with Epsom Salts or Sequestron.

Sun Scald

Causes paper-brown patches on the fruit. This is caused by exposure to bright sunlight. This can be easily prevented by leaving the older leaves on so that they provide natural shade for your plants.

Blotchy Fruit

If your fruit doesn't ripen and has a blotchy appearance it is from too much heat, too little potash or excess watering. Feed plants with Tui Tomato Fertiliser or Wally's Secret Tomato Food. If it still continues you may need to supplement feed with Egmonts Potash or Yates Liquid Potash, which gives fast results, working within just two weeks.

Tomato Fruit Splitting

Usually caused by changes in watering practices. Tomatoes become accustomed to the amount of water they receive; when watering is increased over a short time span it causes a growth spurt. The fleshy tissue of the fruit will grow much more rapidly than the skin, causing the skin to split. The fruit is still edible but the splits will make the plants more susceptible to viral infections. If this is an ongoing problem you might want to purchase varieties that are resistant to cracking, such as Big Beef.

Tops of Tomato Fruit Are Green

This is caused from excess sunlight, being too dry or too much potash. Apply Sulphate of Ammonia and water regularly.

Blossom-End Rot

This is from a calcium deficiency and also happens when tomatoes are ripening rapidly from irregular watering. Water plants regularly while growing. Add gypsum prior to planting to boost calcium and apply mulch around plants to help with water retention.

Fungus

Early Blight

Small spots appear on older leaves and there is dark mould present. This is more common in warm weather. Prevent by spraying regularly with Copper or dust the leaves with Eco-Fungicide. Dispose of affected leaves and if severe, the entire plant.

Late Blight

Irregular brown patches on leaves. This is more serious in wet, humid climates. Dispose of affected plant material.

Botrytis/Grey Mould

Leaves, stems and fruit develop a grey-brown rot or mould. Spray with Yates Liquid Copper.

Leaf Mould

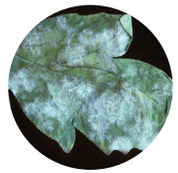
Older leaves show yellowing blotches with grey mould on the undersides of the leaves. Younger leaves show pale circular spots. Spray with Eco-Fungicide.

Verticillium Wilt/Bacterial Wilt

Drying and withering leaves. Do not grow tomatoes in the same area for more than one year in three. Sterilise soil and then apply a soil drench of Oderings Ocean Grow and Seaweed Boost which contains trichoderma. Trichoderma is a beneficial fungus for suppression of various disease causing fungal pathogens. Plant Verticillium-resistant varieties, such as Big Beef, Grosse Lisse or Roma.

Powdery Mildew

Leaves, stems and fruit develop grey powder. Spray with Eco-Fungicide.



Insects

See our 'Insect Doctor' brochure to help determine correct spray to use.

Aphids

Plants wilt and often the leaves pucker and are distorted because the aphids suck the sap from the new growth before it opens. The insects live on the undersides of the leaves.

Mites

Leaves are mottled and look yellowish and dehydrated. These minute insects live on the undersides of the leaves.

Tomato Fruit Worm

Small caterpillars tunnel holes into the fruit.

Tomato Psyllid

Once the psyllid is on your plant the damage has been done. The psyllid inject a toxin into the plant that causes a multitude of issues; therefore, prevention is key. Dispose and destroy affected plants and do not grow tomatoes in the same area for more than one year in three.

Whitefly

Tiny white insects on the undersides of the leaves that when disturbed will fly around.

Hormone Damage

This is caused from spray drift from people using weed sprays, or when mulching tomato plants with lawn clippings that still have the residue of a hormone weed spray present. If your plant is diagnosed with hormone damage there is no recovery therefore remove and dispose of plants.

Yates®

Want tastier, more prolific tomatoes?

Yates® Thrive® Natural Blood & Bone with Seaweed is a certified organic garden input boosted with NZ seaweed to gently nourish tomatoes and enrich the soil as well as encouraging the development of a strong healthy root system.

Yates® Thrive® Tomato Liquid Plant Food delivers fast, balanced fertiliser for producing large crops of delicious fruit and strong, healthy growth.

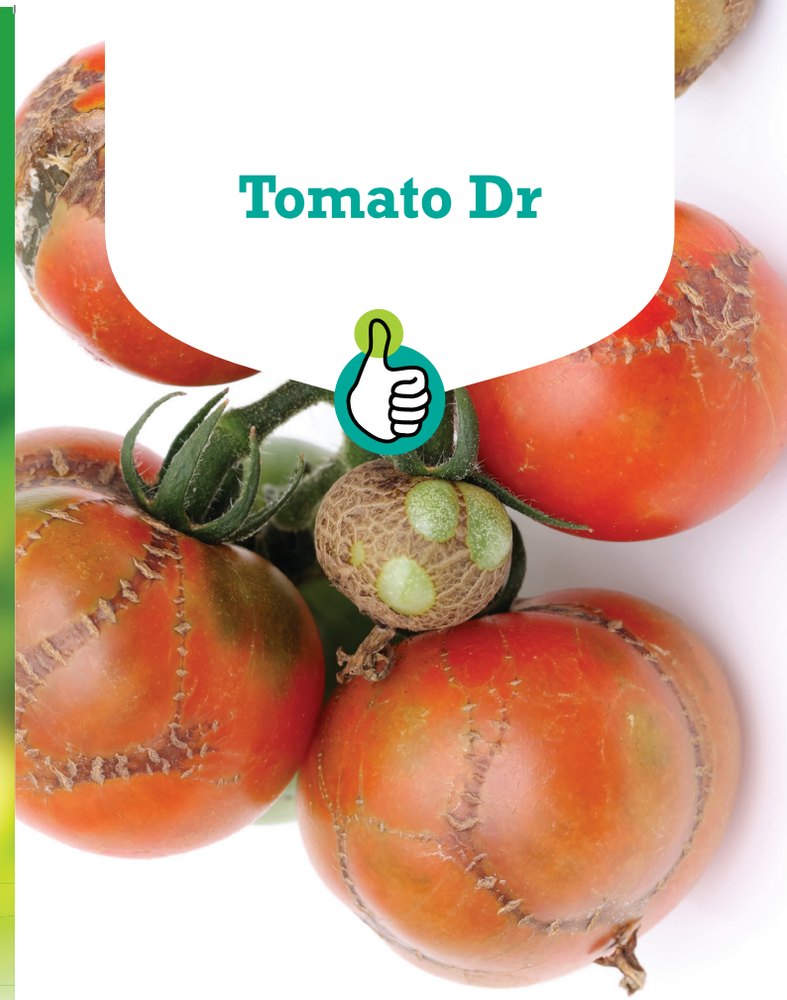
For more advice on growing tomatoes talk to Yates on **0800 693 297**, or via **Live Chat** on **yates.co.nz**

WHERE YOU CAN SEND PICS FOR QUICK PROBLEM SOLVING!

ODERINGS
GARDEN CENTRES

www.oderings.co.nz

Tomato Dr



ODERINGS GARDENING *guide*